

[eEdition Login](#)

[Advertise](#)

[Welcome! Sign in or register →](#)



Monday Edition  
September 24, 2012  
Updated continually

[theadvocate.com](http://theadvocate.com)

[Baton Rouge](#)  
[New Orleans](#)  
[Acadiana](#)  
[Classifieds](#)  
[Jobs](#)  
[Homes](#)  
[Wheels](#)  
[Shop](#)  
[Pets](#)  
[Home](#)  
[News](#)  
[Sports](#)  
[Features](#)  
[Entertainment](#)  
[Photos](#)  
[Blogs](#)  
[Help](#)  
[Obits](#)  
[Extra](#)  
[Weather](#)  
[Traffic](#)  
[Archives](#)  
[Subscribe](#)  
[Subscribe - New Orleans edition](#)  
[The Advocate eEdition](#)  
[The Advocate History](#)  
[Today's News](#)  
[AP](#)  
[Acadiana](#)  
[Ascension](#)

Baton Rouge, LA  
Fog — 69°  
[Full forecast](#)

Baker/Zachary  
Business  
Columnists  
Education  
Elections  
Livingston  
Opinion  
Police  
Politics  
West Side  
Today's Sports  
LSU Tigers  
SU Jaguars  
High School  
Outdoors  
New Orleans Saints  
New Orleans Hornets  
Blogs  
Photos  
Football 2012  
Today's Business  
National Business News  
Daily Digests  
AP Stocks Pages  
AP Markets Summary  
Today's Features  
People  
Faith  
Food  
Recipes  
Food Reviews  
Teen & Kids  
Style File  
Real Estate  
Weddings  
Horoscopes  
Today's Entertainment  
Art  
Books  
Calendars  
Comics  
Crosswords

[Fun](#)  
[Games](#)  
[Magazine](#)  
[Movies](#)  
[Movie Times](#)  
[Music](#)  
[Sudoku](#)  
[TV Grid](#)  
[Travel](#)  
[Today's Multimedia](#)  
[Submit photos](#)  
[Buy photos](#)  
[Politics Blog](#)  
[Tiger Tracks](#)  
[Line Drives](#)  
[Full Court Press](#)  
[Jaguar Nation](#)  
[Black and Gold](#)  
[The Stir](#)  
[Today's Obituaries](#)  
[Place an Obituary](#)  
[Obituary Laminations](#)  
[Guest Books](#)  
[BR Charities](#)  
[Contests](#)  
[Facebook](#)  
[Horoscopes](#)  
[Android App](#)  
[iPhone App](#)  
[iPad App](#)  
[Newsletters](#)  
[Text Alerts](#)  
[Twitter](#)  
[Home](#)

Residents hope for answers

## Community meeting set to discuss sinkhole updates

By Bret H. McCormick

River Parishes bureau

September 19, 2012

[2 Comments](#)

A Bayou Corne community activist is hopeful that representatives from several state and parish agencies will attend a community meeting on Thursday and provide him and others the answers about northern Assumption Parish's giant sinkhole they so desperately seek. John Achee Jr., who has served as a spokesman for a group of concerned Bayou Corne residents, said people in the area are eager for an update on the status of the sinkhole, which was discovered on Aug. 3 on property owned by Texas Brine Co. of Houston. Residents invited officials from Texas Brine and several public officials as well as representatives of various governmental agencies. Achee said he was hopeful that many of those invited will show up at a meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Thursday at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Pierre Part and will be able to provide an update.

"It's been almost six weeks since the last town hall meetings, which is ridiculous," Achee said.

Residents have been told that no new information is available and won't be available until Texas Brine finishes drilling its observation well later this week. The well is being drilled to see if an abandoned Texas Brine cavern could be the cause of the sinkhole.

Assumption Parish Sheriff Mike Waguespack said Tuesday he hadn't confirmed yet if he would attend Thursday's meeting, but he said he believes parish officials have done a good job of providing to residents the information they have available.

"I think the parish has been doing a good job disseminating the information they have," Waguespack said. "The problem is there's no new significant information until they actually get into the cavern."

Waguespack said parish officials have maintained a blog online at <http://assumptionla.wordpress.com/> and posted two updates Tuesday morning. In addition, he said, residents have been given "unlimited access" to come to the parish's command center near the sinkhole and ask whatever questions they need answered.

Sonny Cranch, a Texas Brine spokesman, said the company's primary drilling rig was dismantled and is being replaced by a snubbing unit, which will drill the remaining 900 feet from the well to the cavern. The snubbing unit components were being assembled Tuesday, he said, and drilling is expected to resume Wednesday evening.

The snubbing unit is a "precautionary measure" that allows workers to insert a pipe under the pressure coming up from the well and use the pipe to pump in heavy drilling muds to kill the well, Cranch said.

It may take up to 48 hours to finish drilling the remaining 900 feet, said Cranch, who added that he plans to attend Thursday's meeting.

The sinkhole, meanwhile, continued to grow slightly on Tuesday. Cranch said a portion of soil "on the western edge of the sinkhole that was a couple of feet wide and roughly 200 feet long" sloughed into the sinkhole along with a tree either late Monday or early Tuesday



Advocate file photo by  
HEATHER MCCLELLAND --

This recent aerial photograph overlooks the site where an observational well is being drilled to search inside a Texas Brine Co. LLC salt cavern in northern Assumption Parish. The drilling rig is in the foreground. The sinkhole, also known as a slurry area or slurry hole, is near the top of the photograph. Texas Brine officials have said the drilling site is about 1,000 feet from the edge of the sinkhole.

[Tweet](#)

It was the second time in three days that land disappeared into the sinkhole after a section of land 20 feet long by 20 feet wide, along with a tree, fell in on Sunday, Cranch said.

While Cranch said he would attend Thursday's meeting, it's not known who else will join him. Achee said his top goal was to get the officials in a room and have them available to take questions.

Among governmental agencies and personnel invited to the meeting are the state's Department of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Health and Hospitals, Department of Transportation and Development, Louisiana State Police, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, and local, state and federal elected officials.

Lauren Lee, a spokesperson for DOTD, said Secretary Sherri LeBas hadn't received an invitation via fax or email for the meeting, though she was listed on the memo sent out by residents.

Sgt. Len Marie, a public affairs supervisor for Louisiana State Police, said he was "still trying to work out those details" with Col. Mike Edmonson, the State Police superintendent, before committing to attend the meeting.

GOHSEP spokeswoman Christina Stephens said she had been in close contact with parish officials, who, she said, are planning a public meeting most likely for next week. Stephens added that GOHSEP director Kevin Davis would attend that meeting.

DNR and DEQ officials said they were unsure if anyone from those organizations would be available, while attempts to reach DHH officials, U.S. Rep. Jeff Landry, R-New Iberia; state Sen. Rick Ward, D-Port Allen; and state Rep. Karen St. Germain, D-Plaquemine, all of whom were invited, were unsuccessful.

Achee said residents are concerned that some of the signs that existed before the sinkhole formed, such as sharp earth tremors, are back, which he said could mean "the cycle is repeating itself."

"I'm curious to see who's going to show up," Achee said. "I don't know why they wouldn't show up. The residents are asking for some answers."

## Resources

### [Letter to the editor](#)

Send a letter to the editor to voice your opinion.

### [BR Homicides Maps](#)

Maps listing homicides or suspected homicides in EBR Parish for 2011 and 2010.

### [Gas Prices in BR](#)

Current gas prices in BR area.

### [Governmental Links](#)

Important local, statewide offices.

### [2012 Area Graduates](#)

### [Blogs](#)

### [LSU Football](#)

### [Louisiana Politics](#)

Copyright © 2012, Capital City Press LLC • 7290 Bluebonnet Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70810 • All Rights Reserved

[Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy Policies](#) | [Supported browsers](#) | [Newspaper Archives](#) | [Media Kit](#)

[LSU Baseball](#)  
[Southern Sports](#)  
[Saints Football](#)  
[Newsletters](#)  
[Breaking News Alerts](#)  
[Breaking Sports Alerts](#)  
[The Advocate's Daily Digest](#)

---

Please log in to comment on this story

#### Comments (2)

1) Comment by foldgers - 09/19/2012

This is a weird thing and makes it even more mysterious that after all this time, no one still knows what is going on. Just theories.

2) Comment by Warp7 - 09/19/2012

I bet they get Zero input from Jindal. Apparently he does not feel that this is worth his time since no big media camera will be around.